

REMARKS**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 9-14 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McConnell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,986,952) in view of Raynham (U.S. Patent No. 5,127,014). Applicant once again traverses.

Applicant was required to provide support for its contention that McConnell requires an external processor. Applicant respectfully cites col. 4, lines 59-61, which state “[t]he processor 4 may be disposed on the same integrated circuit as the integrated memory or on a separate integrated circuit.” This clearly indicates and shows that the processor is external to the memory, and differs from the claims. The processor being on the same integrated circuit as the memory does not mean that the processor is not external to the memory. In fact, McConnell makes it very clear that the processor is not part of the “integrated memory” by clearly distinguishing the two, using both the terms integrated circuit and “integrated memory.” In contrast, the Office Action attempts to equate the terms “integrated memory” and “integrated circuit” into one combined structure. This is not the case. As Applicant has shown in previous responses, and as Applicant maintains, the present claims recite integrated error correction circuitry to free an external processor from such task that is simply not shown in any combination of McConnell and Raynham.

The Office Action attempts to use the claim language of McConnell absent any interpretation of that language given the specification thereof. Claims must be read in light of the specification. This is especially true in the case of means plus function claims. The only means described or discussed in the specification of McConnell is that of the external to the memory processor as has been described and shown above. This external processor functions with the repair device or as part of the repair device of McConnell, and as has been repeatedly shown, is external to the memory. No embodiment of McConnell is without this, and the means plus function language is therefore limited to those shown embodiments. In fact, from a reading of McConnell it is clear that one of its objects, its purposes, is “to provide a redundancy concept for memory circuits.” (See McConnell, col. 1, ll. 54-55). The redundancy is always performed

in McConnell by the external components. As such, any combination of on-chip ECC such as that in Raynham is completely unnecessary, as redundancy, an object of McConnell, accomplishes the task. There is therefore no motivation whatsoever to add ECC to McConnell since it already has redundancy correction.

Applicant's arguments and comments from its previous responses remain applicable, and are incorporated herein by reference. It does not appear that the Office Action addresses Applicant's arguments, as the only disagreement the Office Action makes is that McConnell explicitly teaches something it does not in fact teach. The Office Action admits as much when it "asserts" that a memory circuit includes repair means built into the memory circuit without acknowledging the clear and uncontroverted lack of any embodiments of McConnell that do not include the external redundancy concepts that are an admitted object of McConnell.

The claims are allowable.

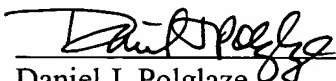
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any further fees deemed necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501373.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2203.

Respectfully submitted,

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